

Appl. No. : 09/835,732
Filed : April 11, 1997

comprises "an LCD housing made in a single piece from a light conducting material." (emphasis added) Similar limitations were included in Independent Claim 16. Accordingly, Applicant submitted that Independent Claims 1 and 16 each included limitations which clearly defined that the housing is made in a single piece from light conducting material and functions as a light pipe for conducting light from a source to the LCD.

Likewise, Claim 17 defined a method for conducting light in a computer system having an LCD and an LCD housing. The method included the step of "conducting generated light through the LCD housing to the LCD, wherein the LCD housing is made in a single piece from light conducting material ..."

The Examiner made reference to the embodiment of Figure 4 in the Tsuchiyama, et. al. reference, which discloses a back light generally 32A which "has a rectangular saucer-like reflection frame 36 and a light conducting plate 38 which are formed integrally with each other." Counsel for Applicant again noted that back light 32A of Figure 4 does not define a housing for an LCD, but rather fits within the casing 10a of the pager 10 as indicated at 32 in Figure 3B. Thus, the casing 10a defines the housing, rather than the back light 32 or 32A.

Nevertheless, the Examiner expressed agreement with the Applicant that amendment of Claims 1 and 16 to cancel the term "conducting" and insert therefore "transmissive", so as to define an "LCD housing made in a single piece from a light transmissive material" distinguishes over the teachings of the art of record, and particularly over Tsuchiyama, et. al., which includes a back light which is not a housing and which includes a "reflection frame 36" rather than a material which is light transmissive. Accordingly, the Examiner agreed that the amendments to Claims 1 and 16 as presented herein, distinguish over the art of record.

With respect to Claim 17, Applicant noted that the claim defined a method for conducting a light in a computer system having an LCD and an LCD housing. In view of the discussion with respect to Claims 1 and 16, counsel for Applicant also agreed to amend Claim 17 to define the act of "conducting the generated light through the LCD housing to the LCD, wherein the LCD housing is made of a single piece from light transmissive material and functions as a light pipe for illuminating the LCD and protects the LCD." Accordingly, the Examiner agreed that, for the reasons stated above, this claim also distinguishes over the art of record.

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In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 2-9 and 11-15, which each depend from Independent Claim 1, and Claims 18 and 19, which each depend from Independent Claim 17, also define subject matter which is patentable over the art of record.

With respect to Claim 20, counsel for Applicant pointed out to the Examiner that this claim includes a limitation of an "LCD housing made by a unitary construction of translucent material;". Counsel for Applicant submitted to Examiner that the term "translucent material" comprises a light transmissive material, and thus is allowable for the reasons set forth above. Counsel for Applicant also referred to the definition of "translucent" presented in the Random House Unabridged Dictionary, Second Edition (1993) which, in relevant part, defines translucent as: "permitting light to pass through but diffusing it so that persons, objects, etc., on the opposite side are not clearly visible;" or "clear; transparent." Thus, Applicant submits that the LCD housing made by a "unitary construction of translucent material" in combination with the other elements of Claim 20, clearly defines over the teachings of Tsuchiyama, et. al., as described above. Furthermore, Claim 20 and particularly distinguishes over the embodiment of Figure 4, which does not define a housing, and which includes a back light having a reflection frame 36, and a conducting plate 38 which are formed integral, but then which also requires a diffusion sheet 40 which is a separate member, positioned upon the conducting plate and separating that plate from the LCD 12, as seen in Figure 3B. In the telephone interview, the Examiner advised that, based upon the definition of translucent, as set forth above, which is distinct from "reflective", he agrees that Claim 20 defines over the art of record.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-9 and 11-20, as presented herein, define subject matter which is patentable over the art of record. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-19 and 11-20 are now in condition for immediate allowance and such prompt allowance of the same is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

The Applicant has endeavored to address the concerns discussed with the Examiner during the telephonic interview, and in view of the recent advisory action directed to the above-identified application. Accordingly, amendments to the claims for patentability purposes pursuant to statutory sections 102, 103 and/or 112, the reasons therefore and arguments in support of the patentability of the pending claims that are presented above.

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Any claim amendments which are not specifically discussed in the above remarks are not made for patentability purposes, and it is believed that the claims would satisfy the statutory requirements for patentability without the entry of such amendments. Rather, these amendments have only been made to increase claim readability, to improve grammar, and to reduce the time and effort required of those in the art to clearly understand the scope of the claim language. Any new claims presented above are of course intended to avoid the prior art, but are not intended as replacements or substitutes for any cancelled claims. They are simply additional specific statements of inventive concepts described in the application as originally filed.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections is specifically requested. If the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to the prompt allowance of these claims that could be clarified with a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully requested to initiate the same with the undersigned.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: March 29, 2002

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE:

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Quadruple Amended) A computer display comprising:
 - a LCD housing made in a single piece from a light transmissive ~~conductive~~ material;
 - a light source coupled to the LCD housing;
 - a LCD coupled to the LCD housing;
 - wherein the LCD housing functions as a light pipe for conducting light from the light source to the LCD and protects the LCD.
16. (Fifth Amended) A computer comprising:
 - a display panel;
 - first means for generating light for the display panel; and
 - second means made in a single piece from a light transmissive ~~conducting~~ material for housing the display panel, wherein the second means is connected to the display panel and functions as a light pipe so as to conduct light received from the first means for generating light to the display panel.
17. (Fifth Amended) A method for conducting light in a computer system having a LCD and a LCD housing comprising:
 - generating light; and
 - conducting the generated light through the LCD housing to the LCD, wherein the LCD housing is made in a single piece from light transmissive ~~conducting~~ material and functions as a light pipe for illuminating the LCD and as a housing which and protects the LCD.